

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 233519

22

ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 /110 R

DRAFTED BY: IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER

APPROVED BY: IO:DRTOUSSAINT

IO/UNESCO:RCHEATER

IO/UNP:JLORENZ

NEA/PAB:RMCKEE

IO/ML:WKRIEBEL

EA/RA:LMCNUTT

NEA/INS- DKUX

----- 016404

R 210303Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALEAP

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

XMT AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

XMT AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

XMT AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233519

NESCO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 233519

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN UNESCO
EUROPEAN REGION

REF: STATE 224244

1. SUMMARY. ADDRESSEE POSTS REQUESTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND ASK THAT THEIR DELEGATIONS TO 19TH UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE (NAIROBI, OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 30, 1976) SUPPORT EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATION THAT GENERAL CONFERENCE BASE ITS ASSIGNMENT OF MEMBER STATES TO GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS ON THE WISHES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE REGION CONCERNED, AND THAT WHEN THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN ADOPTED, THEIR DELEGATIONS SUPPORT THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS REGIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN 1974 THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) OF UNESCO REJECTED ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPEAN REGION, LEAVING ISRAEL ONLY MEMBER THEN UNASSIGNED TO A REGIONAL GROUPING. (VOTE WAS 33-48 WITH 31 ABSTENTIONS AND 22 "ABSENT.") THIS POLITICALLY INSPIRED GESTURE WAS ONE OF GC'S ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS THAT TRIGGERED CONGRESSIONAL CUT-OFF OF U. S. PAYMENTS TO UNESCO. ALL MEMBERS VOTED ON ISRAEL, AS ON ALL REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS, WITH NO SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR VIEWS OF REGION CONCERNED. ANTI-ISRAEL VOTE WAS SPEARHEADED BY ARAB AND MOSLEM STATES AND SUPPORTED BY USSR AND EASTERN EUROPEANS, EXCEPT ROMANIA, WHICH WAS "ABSENT". (ASIAN VOTE ANALYZED PARA 5, BELOW.) IF GC HAD FOLLOWED TRADITION OF LEAVING A LARGELY REGIONAL MATTER TO REGIONAL GROUPING ITSELF, THE SUPPORT OF GREAT MAJORITY OF WESTERN MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN REGION (WHICH ALSO INCLUDES EASTERN EUROPE, U.S. AND CANADA) WOULD HAVE INSURED ISRAEL'S ADMISSION.

3. WITH 18TH GC ACTION IN MIND AND WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW'S STRONG SUPPORT, 40-MEMBER UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 233519

LAST FALL RECOMMENDED THAT 19TH GC, IN UPDATING REGIONAL ASSIGNMENTS, BE GUIDED BY VIEWS OF MEMBERS OF RELEVANT REGION. (IN ADDITION TO ISRAEL, THREE NEW MEMBERS -- SURINAM, GRENADA AND SAN MARINO -- HAVE NOT YET BEEN ASSIGNED TO REGIONS.) VOTE IN BOARD WAS 25-3 (EE'S) - 3 ABSTENTIONS, WITH 9 (ARABS/MOSLEM, PLUS CHINA AND INDIA) COUNTED "ABSENT."

4. SUCCESS OF EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION AIMED AT GIVING MEMBERS OF REGION CONCERNED DECISIVE ROLE IN ASSIGNMENTS TO THAT REGION WILL DEPEND MAINLY ON WHETHER EE'S AND ARABS ARE PREPARED AT LEAST NOT TO ACTIVELY OPPOSE ISRAEL'S APPLICATION. AT SAME TIME, SINCE A FAVORABLE OUTCOME ON THIS ISSUE IS PREREQUISITE TO RESUMPTION OF U.S. PAYMENTS TO UNESCO AND RESOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION'S GROWING FINANCIAL CRISIS, DEPT. IS SEEKING SUPPORT FOR THE NEW PROCEDURE OR, AT MINIMUM, TO DISCOURAGE ACTIVE OPPOSITION, WHEREVER THERE IS ANY CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

5. MEMBERS OF ASIAN REGION OF UNESCO THAT VOTED AGAINST ISRAEL AT 18TH GC WERE MAINLY MOSLEM: AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, CHINA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND PAKISTAN. WE HOPE TO INDUCE MANY OF THESE STATES AT LEAST TO ABSTAIN AT 19TH GC. MOST ENCOURAGING TARGETS ARE AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES THAT ABSTAINED OR WERE "ABSENT" AT 18TH GC VOTE: AUSTRALIA, NEPAL, PHILIPPINES, JAPAN, BURMA, INDIA, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SINGAPORE AND SRI LANKA. (NORTH KOREA WAS ALSO "ABSENT.") AUSTRALIA, NEPAL AND PHILIPPINES NOT ONLY VOTED FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION ADOPTED LAST FALL, WHICH WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE FIRST STEP TOWARD REVERSING 18TH GC ACTION, BUT WERE AMONG CO-SPONSORS. (JAPAN SUPPORTED BOARD'S RESOLUTION BUT WAS NOT CO-SPONSOR, WHEREAS INDIA AND CHINA JOINED ARABS IN BEING "ABSENT." NO OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTED ON CURRENT BOARD.) NEW ZEALAND WAS ONLY EA STATE THAT VOTED FOR ISRAEL AT 18TH GC. AUSTRALIA CHANGED FROM "YES" IN PRELIMINARY VOTING TO ABSTENTION DURING FINAL, ROLL-CALL VOTE.

6. GIVEN CRITICAL, PERHAPS DECISIVE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TO FUTURE OF U. S. RELATIONS WITH UNESCO, AS WELL AS OF ORGANIZATION ITSELF, DEPT. HOPES ALL HOST GOVERNMENTS WILL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 233519

SUPPORT ADOPTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD PROCEDURE TO GIVE REGIONS DETERMINING VOICE IN THEIR MEMBERSHIP AND WILL VOTE FOR ISRAEL'S INCLUSION IN EUROPEAN REGION. ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS, UNDERSCORING GRAVITY OF PRESENT CRISIS OF U.S./UNESCO RELATIONS PRECIPITATED BY POLITICAL ACTS OF PREVIOUS GC. POSTS SHOULD EXERCISE THEIR DISCRETION, IN RELATION TO SPECIAL, LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AS WELL AS IN LIGHT OF HOST GOVERNMENT'S VOTING RECORD ON THIS ISSUE, IN STRESSING FOLLOWING POINTS :

(A) ISRAEL'S ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPEAN REGION WOULD NULLIFY ONE OF 18TH GC'S MOST CLEARLY POLITICAL ACTS DIRECTED AGAINST ISRAEL AND WOULD CONSTITUTE AN ESSENTIAL STEP TOWARD RE-ESTABLISHING VIABLE BASIS FOR A FULL AND ACTIVE

U.S. PRESENCE IN UNESCO, INCLUDING PAYMENT OF ASSESSMENTS.

(B) CONTINUED EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM EUROPEAN REGION, OR ANY ADDITIONAL ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS, WOULD BE CERTAIN TO RESULT IN CONGRESS CONTINUING TO WITHHOLD FUNDS, PROLONGING UNESCO'S SERIOUS FINANCIAL PLIGHT, JEOPARDIZING U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO AND UNDERMINING NOT ONLY UNESCO BUT, IN BROADER SENSE, UN ITSELF.

(C) IT IS CLEARLY NOT IN UNESCO'S INTEREST -- OR IN INTEREST OF ITS NON-COMMUNIST MEMBERS -- TO HAVE THE U.S. LEAVE UNESCO, CREATING A VOID WHICH SOVIETS WILL BE TEMPTED TO EXPLOIT AND SEEK TO FILL.

(D) THERE IS REAL DANGER THAT OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL'S ASSIGNMENT TO EUROPEAN REGION COULD SERIOUSLY DIVIDE 19TH GC TO THE GREAT DISPLEASURE OF ALL THOSE MEMBERS (ESPECIALLY IN AFRICA AND OTHER PARTS OF THIRD WORLD) THAT ARE ANXIOUS TO SUPPORT DG M'BOW (FIRST BLACK AFRICAN TO HEAD A MAJOR UN AGENCY) AND MAKE THIS GC, THE FIRST TO BE HELD IN AFRICA, A SUCCESS.

7. PLEASE REPORT RESULTS ASAP TO DEPT. AND U.S. PERM DEL TO UNESCO. ROBINQON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE233519
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760358-0988
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760936/aaaabevs.tel
Line Count: 192
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 224244
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN UNESCO EUROPEAN REGION
TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO
To: EA POSTS COLOMBO DACCA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006